

Yearbook on International Communist Affairs 1966. Milorad M. Drachkovitch, ed. Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace. Stanford University, California 1967. Bibliography (in English, Russian, French and German); Index. 766 pp. \$25.

This yearbook (it actually covers considerably more than merely the year 1966, even though conferences and other specific activities listed mostly took place in that year) is a most valuable reference aid. The presence of many well-known experts on Communist affairs -- including Zbigniew Brzezinski, William E. Griffith, Philip Mosely, Stefan T. Possony, Boris Souvarine and Bertram D. Wolfe -- on its Advisory Board identifies it as an authoritative work.

The heavy volume, printed in easily legible type on fairly heavy paper and bound in solid linen cover (approx. 7" x 10"), contains the following ten parts:

1. An introduction by the editor, discussing the principal developments in the World Communist Movement during 1966.
2. Concise "profiles" of each Communist Party, including a brief history since its founding, legal status, membership, electoral strength and current problems and tactics; major fronts and dissident groups are noted.
3. A chronology, listing, month by month, significant events in World Communism, subdivided by areas.
4. Analyses of the more important international Communist and "National Revolutionary" Conferences.
5. The principal International Communist Fronts, their backgrounds and internal problems.
6. 25 significant Communist documents, including some of the principal speeches by outstanding leaders, resolutions, authoritative articles and open letters.
7. An essay on the Fourth (Trotskyist) International.
8. Brief biographical notes on 35 Communist leaders, ranging from internationally known names like Brezhnev,

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Tito, Mao Tse Tung or Ho Chi Minh to comparatively little known personalities like Andropov, Vlahovic, Hermansson or Arismendi.

9. A concise bibliography in 4 languages, including books from both Communist and non-Communist sources.
10. A detailed index of personalities, organizations, publications and topics.

The facts presented in this yearbook are -- so far as this reviewer was able to determine by a number of random checks -- reliable and adequately sourced. The texts printed in part 6 are, of course, verbatim reproductions of Communist documents. Readers may differ in their opinions about evaluations and conclusions. Treatment of the "Cultural Revolution" in China, for instance, (pp. 8-10 in the Introduction; pp. 325-335, Country profile), may strike some experts as not sufficiently incisive and not far-reaching enough: but, of course, much has happened in Mao's China since this book went to the printer.

The over-all approach to world-wide Communist developments, however, especially as reflected in the editor's Introduction, is cogent and well-balanced. For instance, the statement that

"the propensity for fragmentation" [in the World Communist Movement] "has tended in some instances to enlarge Communist vulnerabilities and in others to improve the actual or potential capability for new Communist advances" (p. 3) --

demonstrates a remarkably sober and realistic approach to the issues treated in this volume.

One could perhaps have thought of different editorial arrangements. If this yearbook will be published annually from now on, it might have been more practical to separate in each country profile the (very useful) background data from the events and problems of 1966 so that each following edition may merely add coverage of the next year, without repeating the older facts. This might also have been achieved by a loose-leaf lay-out. Or, the brief biographical notes on well-known leaders add little what the student of Communist affairs knows anyhow while the data on lesser known personalities are a welcome addition. The editor might therefore have either limited the biographical section to the latter figures -- or placed more comprehensive biographical data on more Communist personalities in a separate volume (a "Who's Who in World Communism" is sorely missed, whereas several good bibliographies are available). However, in its present form, too, the volume under review will be of great assistance to all students of Communist affairs.

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